

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 24, 2000 LB 659

SENATOR SMITH: Yes. I would remind you that there are Colorado casinos and South Dakota casinos close to western Nebraska.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So what we have is essentially two-thirds of our population easily exposed, as easily exposed to gambling as if the casino were just on the other side of the river. Would you agree with that?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And you would agree that probably most of the compulsive gambling problems relate to people who go to the casinos rather than people who are buying tickets to the Nebraska lottery or charitable gambling in Nebraska?

SENATOR SMITH: You know, where that compulsive gambling begins, I'm not sure whether that's at the action at a slot machine, at a craps table, or at the convenience store down the street with the lottery. And I think that there's proof that compulsive behavior starts at a point that is further complicated with infiltration of other means of carrying out that addiction.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah. I...what I'm trying to get to is perhaps a little broader discussion of the Indian gambling bill that's now tied up in I think the Government (sic--General Affairs) Committee on a 4 to 4 vote, at least that's what's reported in the newspaper. And I can understand, in a practical, pragmatic sense, the opposition to that to the extent that one might surmise that the adoption of that bill would lead to the exposure...greater exposure to perhaps a third of our population, maybe. In other words, building on our prior conversation, two-thirds of the population of Nebraska is already totally exposed to casinos. The result of an Indian gambling bill would be to expose, maybe, depending on the locations, a small additional portion of our population to gambling, right?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The thing that galls me about the way all of this has worked out is the fact that Iowa will not give us any charitable contributions to help with our compulsive gambling